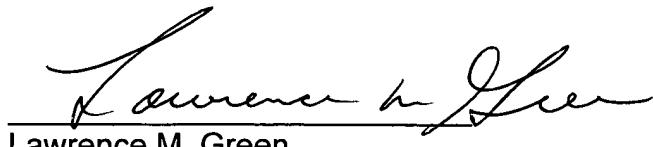


It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the application are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable consideration is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Edwin THOMAS et al., Applicants

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence M. Green  
Reg. No. 29,384  
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.  
600 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210  
Telephone: (617) 720-3500  
Attorney for Applicants

Docket No.: B1039/7001  
Date: April 13, 2001

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [either] claim 1 [or claim 2] wherein the access control data includes operator control unit identification data, operator identification data and access controller identification data.

5. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4] wherein the identity structure is encrypted and can only be deciphered by selected access controllers and the central control means.

8. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

9. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

11. (Amended) A remote access control system according to [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein [the or] each access controller includes recordal means adapted to record data relating to the conditions or circumstances of its associated value unit.

13. (Amended) A remote access control system according to [either] claim 11 [or claim 12] wherein the data recorded is transferred to the central control means, via the virtual configuration link.

14. (Amended) A remote access control system according to [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein [the or] each access controller includes a locking mechanism and an electronic control device.

18. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claims 15 [to 17] wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

19. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 18] wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

20. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 18] wherein the second communication means includes a local communications link.